



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/804,682	03/19/2004	Heinz Hahn	P04,0069	8168
26574	7590	05/16/2005	EXAMINER	
SCHIFF HARDIN, LLP PATENT DEPARTMENT 6600 SEARS TOWER CHICAGO, IL 60606-6473			VARGAS, DIXOMARA	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2859	

DATE MAILED: 05/16/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/804,682

Applicant(s)

HAHN ET AL.

Examiner

Dixomara Vargas

Art Unit

2859

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 19 July 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 07/19/04.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

1. The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

Claim Objections

2. Claim 5 is objected to because of the following informalities: Claim 5 cannot depend on itself. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Su (US 6,163,717 A).

With respect to claim 1, Su discloses a magnetic resonance surface coil unit comprising (Figures 1 and 3): a magnetic resonance resonator coil (#7); a closed housing surrounding said coil (#2, #3 and #5); and a recessed grip in said housing formed by an access opening in a surface of said housing communicating a cavity disposed in an interior of said housing (#16a and #16b), said access opening having a first dimension (G) and a second dimension that is shorter

Art Unit: 2859

than said first dimension (#16a and #16b), and said cavity extending in said housing to at least one side of said access opening in a direction of said second dimension, forming a gripper part in a region of said housing next to said access opening (Figure 1).

5. With respect to claim 2, Su discloses structurally reinforcement in said region of said housing forming said gripper part (Figure 1, #2).

6. With respect to claim 3, Su discloses said access opening has an oblong shape with said first and second dimensions being adapted for gripping with a human hand (Figures 1 and 3).

7. With respect to claim 4, Su discloses said first and second dimensions of said access opening are dimensioned to allow insertion of a plurality of fingers of a human hand (Figures 1 and 3).

8. With respect to claim 5, Su discloses said housing has a housing side adapted to be accessible in an installed state of the magnetic resonance surface coil unit, and wherein said access opening is disposed at said housing side (Figure 1, end of portions #2a and #2b).

9. With respect to claim 6, Su discloses a second access opening in communication with said cavity (Figure 1, end of portions #2a and #2b are in communication with openings #16a and #16b), said first and second access openings and said cavity forming a passage extending completely through said housing (Figure 1).

10. With respect to claim 7, Su discloses said coil at least partially surrounds said region of said housing forming said gripper part (Figure 1, coils #7 surrounds opening #16a and #16b).

11. With respect to claim 8, Su discloses a coil array formed by a plurality of magnetic resonance resonator coils, including said magnetic resonance resonator coil (Figure 1, coils #7 in #2a and #2b) and wherein one of said magnetic resonance resonator coils in said plurality at least

Art Unit: 2859

partially surrounds said region of said housing forming said gripper part (Figure 1, coils #7 surrounds opening #16a and #16b).

12. With respect to claim 9, Su discloses said housing has a center of gravity, and wherein said recessed grip is disposed substantially at said center of gravity (Figure 1, towards #11).

13. With respect to claim 10, Su discloses said housing has an edge, and wherein said recessed grip is disposed next to said edge (Figure 1, towards #11).

14. With respect to claim 11, Su discloses said housing has a rectangular shape with a shorter side and a longer side, and wherein said recessed grip is disposed at said longer side (Figure 1).

15. With respect to claim 12, Su discloses said housing has a center of gravity disposed at a height within said housing, and wherein said recessed grip is disposed at said height of said center of gravity (Figure 1).

16. With respect to claim 13, Su discloses said housing has a center of gravity and wherein said recessed grip is a first recessed grip, and comprising a second recessed grip, said first and second recessed grips being disposed symmetrically relative to said center of gravity (Figure 1, both openings #16a and #16b).

17. With respect to claim 14, Su discloses said first and second recessed grips form a first pair of recessed grips (Figure 1, both openings #16a and #16b towards #11), and comprising a third recessed grip and a fourth recessed grip forming a second pair of recessed grips, said first and second pairs of recessed grips being disposed mirror symmetrically to each other (Figure 1, both openings #16a and #16b away and opposite from #11).

18. With respect to claim 15, Su discloses said housing has an edge (Figure 1, #2a, #2b and #11), and wherein said first and second pairs of recessed grips (Figure 1, both openings #16a and

Art Unit: 2859.

#16b) are disposed relative to an axis of symmetry defined by a shortest line connecting said center of gravity with said edge (Figure 1).

19. With respect to claim 16, Su discloses said housing has first and second opposite edges and wherein said recessed grip is a first recessed grip and comprising a second recessed grip and a third recessed grip, said first and second recessed grips being disposed at said first edge and said third recessed grips being disposed at said second edge (Figure 1, both openings #16a and #16b towards #11 and both openings #16a and #16b away and opposite from #11).

Conclusion

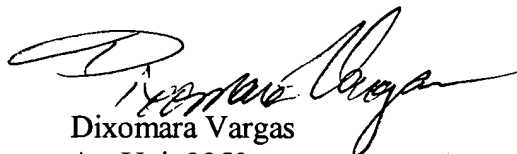
20. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The additional prior art cited in the PTO 892 discloses MR coils disposed in a housing ready to be inserted in a MR system wherein said housing have grip-like structures.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dixomara Vargas whose telephone number is (571) 272-2252. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Thursday from 8:00 am. to 4:30 pm..

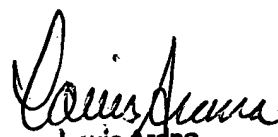
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Diego Gutierrez can be reached on (571) 272-2245. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Art Unit: 2859

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Dixomara Vargas
Art Unit 2859
May 10, 2005



Louis Arana
Primary Examiner